

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Local Government Advisory Committee

Teleconference

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, March 9, 2011
3:30-4:20 pm (ET)

The Meeting Summary that follows reflects what was conveyed during the course of the meeting which is summarized. The Committee is not responsible for any potential inaccuracies that may appear in the meeting summary as a result of information conveyed. Moreover, the Committee advises that additional information sources be consulted in cases where any concern may exist about statistics or any other information contained within the Meeting Summary.

**Environmental Protection Agency
Local Government Advisory Committee
Full Committee Meeting
Teleconference**

March 9, 2011, 3:30-4:20 pm (ET)

Meeting Summary

I. *Welcome and Introductions*

Vice- Chair Bob Dixon called the meeting to order, and welcomed the members of the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), participating staff from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other participants. He introduced Ms. Joyce Frank, Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR).

II. *Remarks by Ms. Joyce Franks, Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR)*

Ms. Franks thanked Mayor Dixon for the introduction, and the Committee for their valuable advice to EPA. She also acknowledged Commissioner Robert Cope (attending the LGAC meeting in person).

She indicated that she had opportunity to take part in the Gulf Coast Restoration Workgroup on February 17th in New Orleans, LA and found the discussions extremely valuable. She thanked Mayor Roach and Mayor Davis for their leadership.

She also thanked EPA Regions for joining the teleconference. She also indicated she looked forward to hearing the discussion and especially hearing from any members of the public who are participating. She stated that it is very important to have public input into the Committee's work and deliberation.

III. *Report Out of the Gulf Coast Restoration Workgroup*

Mayor Randy Roach, Chair of the Gulf Coast Restoration Workgroup, opened by thanking EPA for the opportunity to give advice to the Agency from the perspective of locally elected officials. He gave an overview of the New Orleans Meeting on February 17th, 2011 and the workgroup teleconference meeting on March 4th, 2011. He stated that the tone of the meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, was one of "*high enthusiasm and commitment.*" He looked forward to moving ahead to assist Administrator Jackson in her role as Director of the Gulf Coast Task Force. There was positive movement on the workgroup's charge and areas where agreement is emerging.

Areas of Emerging Consensus:

- The LGAC Gulf Coast Workgroup is committed in efforts to support the Administrator in her role as the Gulf Coast Task Force Chair and creating a Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Strategy. The Workgroup is working within the respective scope of the charge as a federal advisory committee and through its advisory role in formulating recommendations (to the Administrator).
- The Workgroup will identify and prioritize the 4-5 key issues and identify ways to define and determine what recovery is and looks like for the next 10, 20, and plus years.
- There was overwhelming consensus that local government and public involvement is important. Early engagement in the process is important, as well as a sensitive issue for local governments. Local governments feel they should be engaged in the discussion of Gulf Coast Restoration Taskforce Strategy development.
- The Gulf Coast is a working coast and that recovery and restoration is not simply a matter of the ecosystem's health (as the ecosystem will naturally restore itself over time). The importance of the Gulf Coast recovery and the challenge is to sustain the human dependence and economic value which the Gulf provides to local communities.
- The Gulf Coast Restoration Workgroup expressed an interest in reaching out to State and County networks to assist in defining and prioritizing the goals and engaging them in the discussion of "*what would recovery look like.*"

The timeline for the LGAC Gulf Coast Workgroup is to have recommendations for the Full Committee by first week in April.

Mayor Heather Hudson, Chairwoman of the LGAC, recognized Bryon Griffith, and asked him to address the Committee.

Mr. Bryon Griffith, Deputy Director of the Gulf Coast Restoration Task Force thanked the Committee, and Mayor Roach. He appreciates the LGAC's efforts and passion to assist EPA (and the Task Force) and he ensures their advice will be acknowledged and evaluated. And that they can be assured that the voice of local governments will be incorporated in the Gulf Coast Restoration Strategy.

He also stated that the LGAC Gulf Coast Workgroup meeting (February 17th) was one of the best meetings and discussions and highlight of his "*entire federal career*".

I. *Public Comments*

Mayor Hudson called for public participants to identify themselves and to address the Committee. Mr. Joel Porter from a Washington, DC lobbying firm addressed the LGAC with a question concerning "redundant federal programs and implementation and how recovery efforts would be funded." (3:45pm).

The question directed to Mayor Roach: What are the five key points or recommendations that the Gulf Coast workgroup has pulled together thus far?

Mayor Roach responded to the question by stating that it is "*consensus is currently being developed but the Workgroup will develop these 3-5 policy points on this issue and present to Full Committee by early April.*" Mayor Roach also stated that Community Development Block Grants

(CDBG) which are available and have options to apply to recovery efforts in comparison to other federal funds are often difficult to apply/comply with or receive because of overlapping federal funding requirements which become a barrier to localities getting the appropriate funding. This could result in hindering the overall recovery process. Mayor Roach has tasked the Workgroup to develop and specify examples that provide measures of overlapping regulations and barriers to recovery and implementation. He also stated that it is a challenge to keep within the LGAC Charge and yet assist in providing substantive input to the Administrator to assist in the Strategy development.

II. *Subcommittee on Small Communities*

Mayor Dixon provided an update to the SCAS subcommittee's efforts in building a framework built on input from the other LGAC workgroup's efforts and charges. SCAS will monitor other workgroups and provide input on small community issues. Now that all the other LGAC workgroups have met (either face to face or by teleconference) as a group and have begun to develop their scope of work and charge, the SCAS can begin to build a Charge with special emphasis on impacts to small communities.

Mayor Dixon recognized Ms. Paula Zampieri, new DFO for SCAS. She introduced herself, noting her past experience with EPA's Office of Small Business Programs since 2006. She expressed excitement in working most specifically with the SCAS group and the Cleaning Up America's Communities workgroup, as well as supporting the LGAC as a whole.

The SCAS has an Administrative teleconference and that will be held on Friday, March 11th at 4:00pm EST.

Mayor Hudson thanked Mayor Dixon and recognized the important work of SCAS and the importance of small communities.

III. *LGAC Workgroup Reports*

A. Expanding the Conversation-Environmental Justice (EJ) Workgroup

Mayor Lisa Wong, Chairwoman, reported that the workgroup began their initial meeting on February 11th. The teleconference was attended by Ms. Lisa Valencia of Commissioner Salud Carbajal's staff. They were joined by the DFO for the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), Ms. Victoria Robinson, who gave a summary of NEJAC activities.

The Workgroup will look at the School Sitting guidance which was presented by Dr. Peter Grevatt, Director of the Office of Children's Health at the November 2010 LGAC meeting. This guidance is voluntary and out for public comment.

The Workgroup will also review NEJAC's Findings and see how the Agency might implement these in developing better policies. The group is still in the process of reviewing and queuing up paths of interactions and ways to engage in the Administrator's charge. An important note was made within the scope of the Gulf Coast Restoration Workgroup there are overlapping EJ issues which run congruent.

Ms. Fran Eargle, LGAC DFO, also indicated that EPA's External Affairs Office, is in the

development of a charge to the LGAC on faith based groups and identifying successful examples where they have worked with local governments for environmental results. Mayor Wong also stated that she is involved in EJ issues in the State of Massachusetts and will be looking to engage others in the Workgroup discussions.

B. Protecting America's Waters Workgroup

Representative Chris Ross, Chair, reported out that the Workgroup met on February 4th, and was joined by Ms. Holly Gallavotti, Office of Water, to brief the Workgroup on development of the Stormwater rule. He indicated there was a lot of discussion on the topic and the workgroup will be going out to other local officials to get input on the stormwater issue to share at next meeting, as well as thoughts on the Office of Water's Charge.

There is also an interest by the Workgroup in Hydraulic Fracturing, 'fracking', and the Workgroup will likely take up this issue at the next workgroup, on March 18th at 11:30 ET. They have requested Assistant Administrator (Acting) Nancy Stoner to speak and clarify with examples of issues she would like the Workgroup to consider within the Charge.

C. Air, Climate, and Energy

Mayor Peterson, Vice-Chair, gave the report out of the workgroup for Supervisor Carbajal (who was unable to attend). The Workgroup met on March 3rd and they are seeking input from members to develop the Workgroup's issue consistent with the LGAC's Charge.

Supervisor Carbajal formulated agenda and topics for the workgroup, including the overlap of hydrofracking. The Workgroup is looking at commenting on forthcoming air quality standards implementation, and environmental issues concerning electrical power generation. Supervisor Carbajal also has an interest in conversion technology which has potential to provide energy production, while reducing landfill impacts. They are looking forward to a face to face meeting in Chicago in May. Additionally the workgroup has also scheduled their next teleconference call for April 7th, at 2pm ET.

D. Cleaning Up America's Communities

Mayor Bellamy, Chairwoman, gave a report out of the Workgroup's first teleconference call on March 8th. Several issues were presented for discussion but there was a limited number in attendance. Specific points for consideration for this workgroup include:

- Review the Draft Recycling video developed by the LGAC submitted in draft but not completed to final. The workgroup will be reviewing this video and taking up for consideration the potential for recommendations.
- Investigate issues of Superfund sites, both emerging and past initiatives. The Workgroup was briefed by Ms. Ellen Manges, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) and the Workgroup on EPA's Community Engagement Initiative.
- Look into partnerships such as the EPA, DOT and HUD partnership on sustainability.

-Investigate emerging regulatory issues in OSWER and OCSPP and will give insight into the work that they are doing and their public input process that they are undergoing this summer.

-EPA's Brownfields conference will be held in Philadelphia, PA, April 3-5, 2011

Mayor Hudson will participate in EPA's Brownfields conference April 4-5 for the LGAC, as well as Mayor Ronald Davis. The Workgroup will look to them to report back to the Workgroup on any issues related to brownfields programs, guidance and grant information.

-The next Workgroup teleconference is scheduled for the first Thursday of each month.

VII. LGAC Administrative Business and Next Steps

Mayor Hudson asked Members for any other order of business items for the LGAC. Mayor Hudson asked whether Members have reviewed the Meeting Summary of the November 17-18th 2010 meeting. She then called for a motion to accept the Meeting Summary as part of the record. Mayor Dixon so moved, and the Committee all responded, 'aye'. *The Meeting Summary was approved.*

Mayor Hudson requested that a roll call be taken on those Members who could attend the Chicago, May meeting 17-19th. Members responded.

She also stated that Members who can attend please do so, but that there is an understanding that their community business is of first priority.

A request came forward to consider options for teleconferencing those Members who will be unable to attend in person to join the meeting via teleconference.

Mayor Hudson asked if there was other business, and if not, call for a motion to adjourn. A motion by Commissioner Cope and seconded, and all said, 'aye'.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm (ET).

We hereby certify that, to the best of our knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Submitted by:



May 12, 2011



May 12, 2011

Signature Date
Paula Zampieri, EPA DFO

Signature Date
Mayor Heather McTeer-Hudson, Chairwoman, LGAC

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Local Government Advisory Committee
Full Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 3:30-4:20pm(ET)**

Participants

LGAC Members

Mayor Heather McTeer Hudson,
Chairwoman
Mayor Bob Dixson, Chair,
Subcommittee on Small Communities
Mayor Terry Bellamy
Counselor Jill Duson
Mr. Jeff Tiberi
Ms. Sue Hann
Mayor Elizabeth Kautz
Mayor Carolyn Peterson
Commissioner Dave Somers
Mayor Adam Ortiz
Judge Ed Emmett

Mayor Dave Smith
Senator Mary Margaret Whipple
Mayor Randy Roach
Mayor Ronald Davis
Lisa Valencia (for Commissioner Salud Carbajal)
Mayor Marilyn Murrell
Commissioner Tom Hickner
Mayor Teresa Coons
Chairman Steve (Mon-wah) Ortiz
Mayor Jennifer Hosterman
Mayor Lisa Wong
Representative Chris Ross

EPA Representatives

Ms. Joyce Franks, Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, OCIR
Fran Eargle, DFO, LGAC
Paula Zampieri, DFO, SCAS
Mr. Jack Bowles, Director, State and Local
Rebecca Cook, Intergovernmental Liaison
Mr. Bryon Griffith, Director, Gulf of Mexico Program Office, and Deputy Director, Gulf Coast
Restoration Taskforce
Mr. Doug Gutro, EPA Region 1
Ms. Carmen Assunto, EPA Region 6
Ms. Connie Dempsey, EPA Region 4

Members of the Public

Jeff Porter, Washington, DC